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Westmoreland's critic has his day in court

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Seventeen years ago, **Samuel A. Adams** felt like Paul Revere — galloping around CIA offices, spreading the word that U.S. soldiers were fighting "a hell of a lot more Viet Cong" than our government was reporting.

Thursday, the 51-year-old former CIA analyst and descendant of President **John Adams** repeated the claim in no uncertain terms — enlivening what has become a sleepy gathering in the U.S. District courtroom in New York where retired Gen. **William Westmoreland** is suing CBS for $120 million for libel.

Adams was the first witness called to the stand by CBS in defense of the 1982 broadcast — *The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception* — on which he was paid consultant.

Adams, a Harvard graduate with patrician good looks and mischievous blue eyes, explained the genesis of his theory — the basis of the documentary — that Westmoreland's command deliberately lowered figures to make it appear the U.S. was winning.

A CIA analyst from 1963 to 1973, he won a reputation for precision while working on the Congo. Not long after being assigned to Vietnam in 1966, in the "hot, dusty market town of Long An," he says he discovered enemy documents showing enemy strength was greater than the U.S. military was reporting.

More documents followed, A sending him trumpeting news through CIA hallways in Langley, Va., that the enemy in Vietnam was at least double what was being reported.

At first, he said, higher-ups agreed with him. But then they began "bargaining like rug merchants," and ultimately "caved in" to Westmoreland — holding estimates of enemy troop strength below a ceiling of 300,000 — he testified Thursday.

Westmoreland's friends say Adams is "obsessed" with the 14-week-old trial.

In testimony, his former CIA boss, **George Carver**, said of Adams: "He was often in error, but seldom in doubt."

In January 1968 he resigned his position under Carver — protesting the troop strength figures — and wrote a letter calling Westmoreland's official enemy estimates "a monument of deceit."

— **Bruce Frankel** J

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